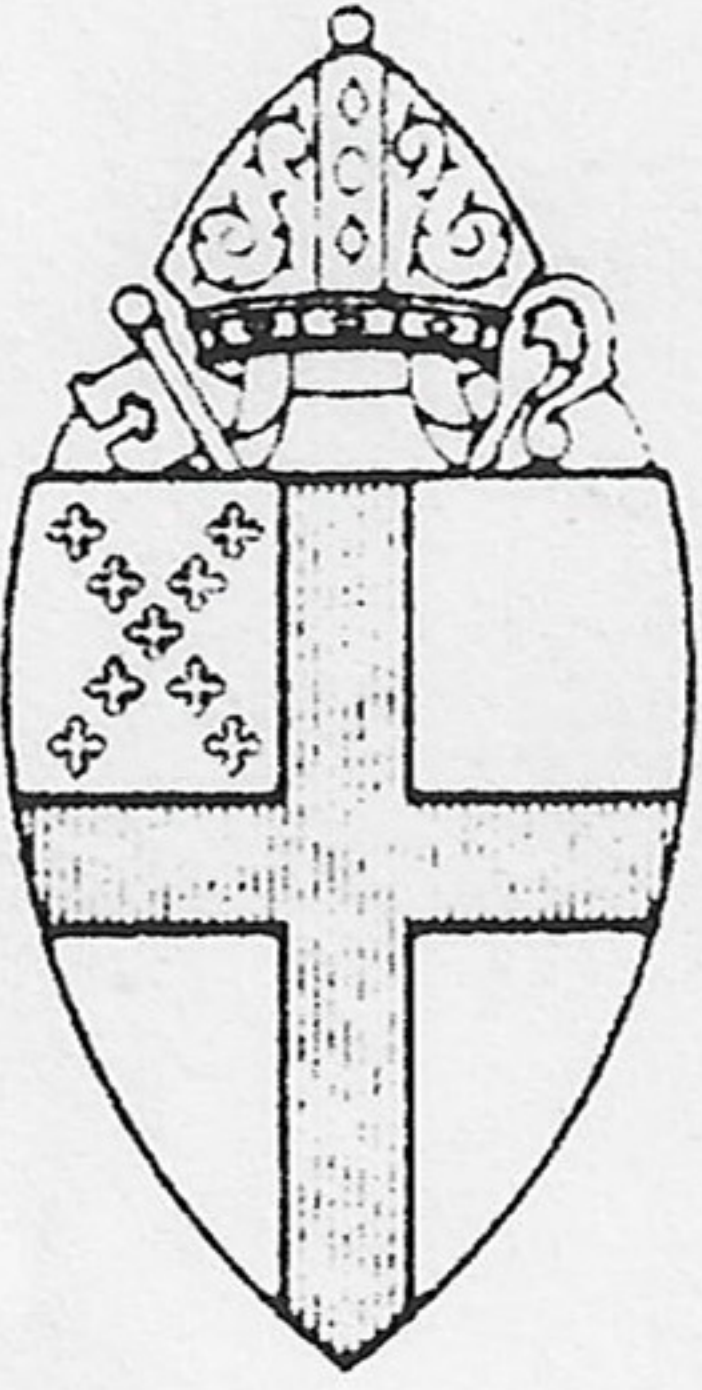


NOV 29 1989



THE MOST REVEREND EDMOND L. BROWNING
PRESIDING BISHOP, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH CENTER
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TO THE BISHOPS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Early in the pre-dawn hours of November 20th, elements of the Salvadoran National Guard entered the Church of St. John the Evangelist in San Salvador, El Salvador, and detained nineteen lay workers of the Episcopal Diocese of El Salvador, including an American Volunteer for Mission, Josie Beecher, of the Diocese of Olympia.

Yesterday I appealed to the President of El Salvador to guarantee the safety and well-being of these persons and to assure their prompt release. I have also been in close touch with the Department of State, urging the Administration to do all in its power to effect the release of our church workers, as well as all other religious and humanitarian workers who have labored to protect and care for the thousands of refugees displaced by the fierce fighting of recent days.

The murder last week of the six Jesuits and their housekeepers has been but the most dramatic in a chilling sequence of threats and actions against church and humanitarian workers in El Salvador. For more than a decade, and to the tune of approximately a million dollars a day, our Government has steadfastly supported the government of El Salvador. There comes a time when accountability must be demanded of our Government's actions. Now is such a time, if it is not already too late. The civil conflict which splits the nation of El Salvador must be adjudicated and negotiated in such a way that the need of the Salvadoran people for economic and political justice is not sacrificed to the supposed national security needs of our nation. The people have suffered enough!

I therefore appeal to you and to all Episcopalians and others of good will to do the following:

1) Telephone the White House and the State Department, demanding that the President and Administration take action to secure the release of the Episcopal Church workers. The White House telephone number is: (202) 456-1414. The State Department telephone number is (202) 647-4910.

2) Telephone the El Salvadoran Embassy in Washington, D.C., with the same demand. Telephone: (202) 265-3480.

3) Telex/telegraph the President of El Salvador, the Minister of Defense and the U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador to express your concern about recent threats and actions against religious and humanitarian workers, as well as Salvadoran military action against civilian populations in the current fighting. Telexes:

President Cristiani: 301-205-22

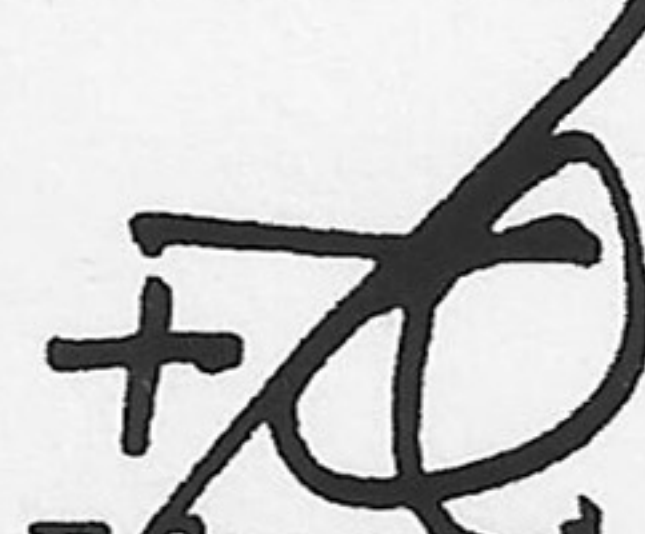
General Rafael Humberto Lario: 204-46-CEFA

Ambassador William Walker: 301-206-48

4) Contact local radio and television stations, urging their ground crews to monitor the safety and condition of the Episcopal Church workers.

5) Write or telephone your congressional delegation, demanding an immediate re-assessment of U.S. military aid to the El Salvador government.

6) Pray for the people of El Salvador, and all who suffer the terrors of war and oppression.


Edmond L. Browning
Presiding Bishop

November 21, 1989